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Programme planning

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2016, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled "Programme planning" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 2nd and 5th meetings, on 30 September and 13 October 2016. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its fifty-sixth session (A/71/16);

(b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019: part one: plan outline (A/71/6 (Part one)) and part two: biennial programme plan (A/71/6 (Prog.1, 2 and Corr.1, 3 and Corr.1-3, 4-5, 6 and Corr.1 and 2, 7-12, 13 and Corr.1, 14-24, 25/Rev.1, 26, 27 and Corr.1 and 28));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/71/85);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015 (A/71/75).

[1] A/C.5/71/SR.2 and A/C.5/71/SR.5.

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/71/L.3

4. At its 5th meeting, on 13 October, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Programme planning" (A/C.5/71/L.3), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Israel.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/71/L.3 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 55/234 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/282 of 20 December 2002, 58/268 and 58/269 of 23 December 2003, 59/275 of 23 December 2004, 60/257 of 8 May 2006, 61/235 of 22 December 2006, 62/224 of 22 December 2007, 63/247 of 24 December 2008, 64/229 of 22 December 2009, 65/244 of 24 December 2010, 66/8 of 11 November 2011, 67/236 of 24 December 2012, 68/20 of 4 December 2013, 69/17 of 18 November 2014 and 70/8 of 13 November 2015,

Recalling also the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as outlined in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976,

Recalling further the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[1] by which the relevant programmes and subprogrammes of the proposed strategic framework shall be reviewed by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies, if possible during the regular cycle of their meetings,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its fifty-sixth session,[2] the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019: part one: plan outline[3] and part two: biennial programme plan[4] and the reports of the Secretary-General on the consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017[5] and on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015,[6]

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;

2. *Re-emphasizes* the role of the plenary and the Main Committees of the General Assembly in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to

[1] ST/SGB/2016/6.
[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/71/16).
[3] A/71/6 (Part one).
[4] A/71/6 (Prog.1, 2 and Corr.1, 3 and Corr.1-3, 4-5, 6 and Corr.1 and 2, 7-12, 13 and Corr.1, 14-24, 25/Rev.1, 26, 27 and Corr.1 and 28).
[5] A/71/85.
[6] A/71/75.

their work, in accordance with regulation 4.10 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;[1]

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015, contained in chapter II, section A, of its report on the work of its fifty-sixth session,[2] on the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, contained in chapter II, section B (i), and on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, contained in chapter II, section B (ii);

4. *Decides* that the priorities of the United Nations for the period 2018-2019 shall be the following:

(a) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(b) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

5. *Stresses* that setting the priorities of the United Nations is the prerogative of the Member States, as reflected in legislative mandates;

6. *Also stresses* the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 on the basis of the above priorities and the strategic framework as adopted in the present resolution;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on evaluation, contained in chapter II, section C, of its report, on the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2015, contained in chapter III, section A, and on the United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, contained in chapter III, section B, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the timely implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations;

9. *Decides* not to take a decision on the content of part one: plan outline of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019;[3]

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, when preparing future plan outlines, that the proposed strategic frameworks take fully into account the guidelines provided by the General Assembly in its resolutions 59/275, 61/235, 62/224, 63/247 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for the Secretary-General to strictly adhere to the concepts, terms and mandates approved in the strategic frameworks, while preparing the related programme performance reports;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing to improve the logical framework, and in this regard encourages programme managers to further improve the qualitative aspects of indicators of achievement in order to enable better evaluation of results, bearing in mind the importance of defining the indicators in a way that ensures their clear measurability.